

Claims

1. Apparatus for use in the alignment of a dental
5 prosthesis, said apparatus comprising:-
 an implant (2) for insertion in the jaw bone of a
 patient, the implant having a generally axial bore (17);
 a plurality of angled templates (1) for use with said
 implant, each one of said templates having a circular cross-
10 section locator lug (6) for inter-engagement with the axial
 bore of the implant; and
 an abutment to which the prosthesis is formed;
 wherein said plurality of templates (1) are provided in
 a range of angles from 5° to 45°, whereby in use one of said
15 templates is selected for use in determining which abutment
 to use, the selection of said one template being on the basis
 of a correct orientation of an alignment element thereof
 relative to the existing teeth of the patient.
- 20 2. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the locator lug
 comprises a frusto-cone having its portion of smaller
 diameter towards the free end of the lug.
3. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the locator lug
25 further comprises an extension piece extending generally
 axially along the axis of the frusto-cone.
4. Apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising a
 plurality of driving flats disposed about the mouth of the
30 template bore and adapted for inter-connection with
 corresponding elements on the implant.
5. Apparatus according to any of claims 2 to 4 wherein the

- 9 -

frusto-cone is additionally provided with a plurality of driving flats.

6. Apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein the template comprises a shaft remote from the locator lug, said shaft has been adapted to mimic the angle of existing teeth when rotated.

7. A system for use in the alignment of a dental prosthesis, said system comprising:-

inserting an implant (2) in the jaw bone of a patient, the implant having a generally axial bore (17);

providing a plurality of angled templates (1), for use with said implant, each one of said templates having a circular cross-section locator lug (6) for inter-engagement with the axial bore of the implant and wherein said plurality of templates (1) are provided in a range of angles from 5° to 45°;

selecting one of said templates for use in determining which abutment to use, the selection of the template being on the basis of a correct orientation of an alignment element thereof relative to the existing teeth of the patient.

